

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: SGEN

SUBJECT: STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION -DECLARATION ON PROTECTION
OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EMERGENCY AND ARMED CONFLICT

1. FOLLOWING DRAFT DECLARATION PREPARED BY WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION (WIDF) WILL BE SUBMITTED TO COMMISSION ON
STATUS OF WOMEN FOR DISCUSSION THIS PM, MONDAY, JAN 28. REQUEST
INSTRUCTIONS SOONEST.

DRAFT DECLARATION
ON THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EMERGENCY
AND ARMED CONFLICT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, SELF-
DETERMINATION, NATIONAL LIBERATION AND INDEPENDENCY
EXPRESSING ITS ANXIETY OVER THE DESTINIES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN
BELONGING TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION WHO IN PERIODS OF EMERGENCY AND
ARMED CONFLICT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, SELF-DETER-
MINATION, NATIONAL LIBERATION AND INDEPENDENCE ARE
TOO OFTEN THE VICTIMS OF INHUMAN ACTS AND CONSEQUENTLY SUFFER
SERIOUS HARM,
AWARE OF THE SUFFERING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN MANY
AREAS OF THE WORLD,
DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE FACT THAT, DESPITE GENERAL AND
UNEQUIVOCAL CONDEMNATION, COLONIALISM CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN MANY
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PEOPLES UNDER ITS YOKE, CRUELLY SUPPRESSING THE NATIONAL LIBERATION

MOVEMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA, ZIMBABWE, ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE AND GUINEA-BISSAU AND INFLECTING HEAVY LOSSES AND INCALCULABLE SUFFERING ON THE POPULATIONS OF THESE COUNTRIES, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, NOTING WITH DEEP CONCERN THAT GRAVE ATTACKS ARE STILL BEING MADE ON FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AND THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON IN MANY COUNTRIES OF ALL CONTINENTS 25 YEARS AFTER PROCLAMATION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, RECALLING THE EXISTENCE OF A NUMBER OF STIPULATIONS CONTAINED IN THE INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN TIME OF PEACE AND IN WARTIME, STIPULATIONS BASED ON HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS AND WHICH HAVE AS THEIR OBJECT THE PROTECTION OF FUTURE GENERATIONS, NOTING WITH SATISFACTION THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS WHICH IS CURRENTLY PREPARING TWO ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS ON THIS SUBJECT, NOTING THAT THE 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL AND THE 1949 GENEVA CONVENTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF WAR, WHICH CONTAIN IMPORTANT PROVISIONS ON THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, ARE AT PRESENT NOT BEING APPLIED BY CERTAIN STATES IN THE COURSE OF ARMED CONFLICTS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, SELFDETERMINATION, NATIONAL LIBERATION AND INDEPENDENCE, RECALLING ITS RESOLUTIONS 2444 (XXIII) , 2597(XXIV), 2674(XXV) AND 2675(XXV) ON RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN POPULATIONS IN ARMED CONFLICTS, AS WELL AS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1515 (XLVIII) OF 28 MAY 1970 WHICH REQUEST THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF DRAFTING A DECLARATION ON THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EMERGENCY AND WARTIME, AMONG OTHER IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS, CONSCIOUS OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DESTINY OF THE RISING GENERATION AND FOR THE DESTINY OF MOTHERS, WHO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SOCIETY, IN THE FAMILY AND PARTICULARLY IN THE UPBRINGING OF CHILDREN, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCLAIMS THIS DECLARATION WITH VIEW

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TO PROVIDING SPECIAL PROTECTION TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN BELONGING TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AND CALLS UPON THE MEMBER STATES TO OVSERVE THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN:

1. MASS AIR BOMBINGS OF CIVILIAN POPULATIONS AND THE USE OF CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS IN THE COURSE OF MILITARY OPERATIONS, CONSTITUTING A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL AND THE

1949 GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND INFLICTING

HEAVY LOSSES ON CIVILIAN POPULATIONS, INCLUDING DEFENSELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN, SHALL BE SEVERELY CONDEMNED.

2. ALL STATES SHALL ABIDE FULLY BY THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL AND THE 1949 GENEVA CONVENTIONS, AS WELL AS OTHER INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW RELATIVE TO RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARMED CONFLICTS, WHICH OFFER IMPORTANT GUARANTEES FOR THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

3. ALL EFFORTS SHALL BE MADE BY STATES ENGAGED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS IN FOREIGN TERRITORIES TO SPARE WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM THE RAVAGES OF WAR. ALL THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS SHALL BE TAKEN TO AVOID PERSECUTION, TORTURE, PUNITIVE MEASURES, DEGRADING TREATMENT AND VIOLENCE, PARTICULARLY AGAINST THAT PART OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION THAT CONSISTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN,

4. ALL FORMS OF REPRESSION AND CRUEL AND INHUMAN TREATMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, INCLUDING IMPRISONMENT, TORTURE, SHOOTING, MASS ARRESTS, COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT, DESTRUCTION OF DWELLINGS AND FORCIBLE EVICTION, COMMITTED BY BELLIGERENTS IN THE COURSE OF MILITARY OPERATIONS OR IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, SHALL BE CONSIDERED CRIMINAL.

5. WOMEN AND CHILDREN BELONGING TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AND FINDING THEMSELVES IN CIRCUMSTANCES OF EMERGENCY AND ARMED CONFLICT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, SELF-DETERMINATION, NATIONAL LIBERATION AND INDEPENDENCE, OR WHO LIVE IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, SHALL NOT BE DEPRIVED OF SHELTER, FOOD, MEDICAL AID OR OTHER INALIENABLE RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD OR OTHER INSTRUMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

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MENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

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